Utilization of Irrigation Potential

865. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 5 million hectares of irrigation potential in the country is lying unutilised;

(b) whether a survey has been made to ascertain the actual potential utilised in view of reported wastage and loss of water in the shape of seepage and over application; and

(c) whether irrigation methods are proposed to be modernised to suit the needs of both soil and crops?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) No survey has been made by Central Government. The information regarding unutilised irrigation potential is based on the reports of the State Governments, according to which about 5 m. ha. of irrigation potential is estimated to be lying unutilised at the end of Sixth Plan period.

(c) The State Governments have been advised to modernise irrigation practices for optimum use of waters. Moreover the use of sprinkler and drip methods of irrigation is being encouraged.

Bringing down the rate of Drop-Outs among SC/ST less Children

866. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken in the current financial year to bring down the high rate of drop-outs among the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe children in the tribal sub-plan area;

(b) if so: what are the details thereof; and

(c) what other steps are proposed to be taken to ensure higher enrolment of S.C. and S.T. students in schools and colleges located in sub-plan areas?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c) Steps taken to reduce the drop-out rate and ensure higher enrolment of SCs and STs in tribal sub-plan areas include the following:

(1) Opening of educational institutions within easy reach of students to cover the needs of all habitations;

(2) Conversion of single teacher schools into 2-teacher schools;

(3) Improvement of physical facilitities in schools;

(4) Provision of creches pre-schools as adjuncts of primary and middle schools;

(5) Improvement of teacher competence through teacher training;

(6) Special attention to girls education among SCs and STs;

(7) Adequate provision of incentives like free text-book and stationery; free uniforms particularly for girls; attendence scholarships particularly for girls and mid-day-meals;

(8) Provision of Central assistance to nine educationally backward states for non-formal education programme and for appointment of women teachers in primary schools. These states account for more than 70 per cent of the total SC/ST population of the country;

(9) Reservation of seats; 15 percent for Scheduled Castes and 7 half per cent for Scheduled Tribes; in colleges; Universities I.I.Ts. etc;

(10) Instructions have been given to Universities that they should relax the admissibility criterion in case of SC/ST to such an extent that all the reserved seats for SC/ST are filled by them;

(11) Provision of pre-examination coaching for competitive examinations; remedial coaching; provision of books; equipments etc. at college level;

(12) Increase in special Central Assistance (SCA) from Rs. 126.15 crores in 1984-85 to Rs. 140.00 crores in 1985-86. A part of it will also flow for educational schemes.